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Garbage pickup: township may play role

by Linda Stewart

A township refuse collection and disposal act may be the needed tool to dis-
courage roadside dumping. County officials are not empowered by state law to contract with scavenger services for residents' garbage pickup and disposal, but it seems that townships may be able to establish that authority. To establish a township-wide solid waste collection service, however, the ordinance would have to be presented to voters in the form of a referendum, according to Oswego Township Supervisor George Hettrich.

garbage services contracted for a large number of residents may cost less than an individual would pay.

County municipalities already charge all their residents for garbage service, but those services have not previously been available for persons living outside municipal boundaries. Instead, persons in unincorporated areas have been required to individually contract for their own garbage pickup.

Some discussion points for township officials, according to Hettrich, would be

how to set up such a program and adjust the solid waste disposal district boundaries as village annexations take place.

*Related stories
on garbage and
recycling are
on page 2.*

"You could be collecting taxes from people who do not get to use the service," said Hettrich.

Also, there was some question about

whether the act allows tree branches yard trimmings and other yard waste to be collected. The Oswego Township Highway Department has begun a program of leaf vacuuming in the fall, which is available to residents of Boulder Hill and other unincorporated subdivisions with curbs and gutters. However, vacuuming is not available to individual houses outside of such subdivisions or in developments without curbs and gutters.

"We will be discussing this at our next meeting," said Hettrich.

Township Plan Commission formed